

## [Old Settler]

Sup. G. B. - Washington - A, 1, 2, b, 3, 4 - (Ida M. Dugan)

461 words

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Omaha, District #2 [?] [(Folkivity)?] (Life sketch) MRS. B. J. EMPEY—OLD SETTLER

Mrs. E. J. Empey moved to Ft. Calhoun Nebraska with her parents Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Moore, when she was a child about thirteen years of age.

While living in Ohio her parents learned about free land in Nebraska. Since they were of moderate means, living on a farm, owning livestock they really had no reason for moving West other than a natural desire to better their circumstances. They finally disposed of their property and made preparations for the famili family to travel West in a covered wagon.

Mrs. Empey is now eighty-three years of age, retains mental alertness and humorously recollects incidents that occurred on their journey West. She remembers that Ulysses Grant and [Keratie?] Seymour were candidates for president of the United States that year. Whenever the family passed another covered wagon the occupants leaned out and joyously shouted their [presidential?] choice.

When they arrived at [Council?] Bluffs, Iowa, they expected to cross the Missouri River on the ferry but found it was no longer in use. Then when they realized that they would be detained several days, Mr. Moore decided not to delay, and so they journeyed farther north where they aroused on a ferry at De Soto, Nebraska.

## Library of Congress

(1) Interview with Mrs. E. J. Empey, 574 So. 35th Ave., August 4, 1936.

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When they reached Nebraska territory they lived for a time in the village of Fort Calhoun where the children attended school. Later Mr. Moore settled on a homestead a few miles south of Blair, Nebraska, proved up on it, and the family continued to live there many years.

Mrs. Empey further related how many times the [Otoe?] and the Sioux Indians came to the vicinity from the reservations. They were however abiding, peaceful Indians, not the thieving, cruel type we so often read about.

As was the custom in those days, Mr. Moore buried his potatoes under ground for the winter. After having used the largest potatoes, there remained a few small ones in the ground that the family did not want. One day Mrs. Moore heard a great commotion outside. Stepping into the yard she saw three Indians who had discovered the small potatoes. One Indian came forward and said, "Have"? The Indians always asked permission before taking anything.

The Moore family eventually moved to a farm near Papillion where some of the members resided for nearly fifty years. About seven years ago Mrs. E. J. Empey came to Omaha to live with a daughter Miss Lillian Empey, a teacher in the Omaha Public Schools.

### SOURCE OF INFORMATION:

(1) Interview with Mrs. E. J. Empey, 574 South 35th Avenue, August 4, 1936.

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